

2. None of the dorsal vertebræ in front of the sacrum are ankylosed.

3. The posterior processes of the ilia are widely separated.

4. The coracoids are furnished with subclavicular processes.

5. They are holorhinal.

6. The hallux is always present, but its basal phalanx is shorter than that of the other toes.

7. All the dorsal vertebræ in front of the ankylosed sacral vertebræ have ventral processes.

8. The humerus is not pneumatic.

9. They have no basipterygoid processes.

10. The first digit of the manus is fused with the second in the adult.

11. The three metatarsal bones of the tarso-metatarsus are very short, and are separated from each other throughout their whole length by deep grooves.

12. The bones of the forearm are all flattened.

13. The scapula is very broad, not differing very much in size from the keel of the sternum.

Not only are the 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th characters each of them diagnostic, but the combination of the 1st, 5th, and 6th is so also.

The Colymbi agree with the Impennes in more of these characters than any other group does, and may possibly be their nearest allies.

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XLIV.—*Note on the Genus Rectes.* By R. BOWDLER  
SHARPE, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c.

DR. A. B. MEYER has kindly lent me a series of skins of *Rectes*, from New Guinea, along with the types of some of his new species. In 1877, when I completed the third volume of the 'Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum,' I admitted four species of *Rectes* with a cap, viz. :—

1. *R. cirrhocephalus* (=juv.), *R. dichrous* (=ad.).

2. *R. uropygialis*.

3. *R. tibialis*.

4. *R. aruensis*.



young of the black-headed ones, I accept the evidence of Count Salvadori and Dr. Meyer, who have had very large series at their disposal, although I do not consider the question to be yet definitely settled.

From the Astrolabe Mountains Mr. C. Hunstein sent two males and a female of a *Rectes*. The female is *R. brunneiceps* of D'Albertis and Salvadori, and the male is undescribed. It may be diagnosed as follows :—

*RECTES MERIDIONALIS*, sp. n.

*R. similis R. uropygiali*, sed scapularibus dorso concoloribus nec nigris, et uropygio tantum nigro distinguenda.  
Long. tot. 10·0, alæ 5·2, caudæ 4·3.

These specimens are doubtless the same as the three from Naiabui referred to *R. dichrous* by Count Salvadori; but I shall not be surprised to learn that they are only really the males of *R. brunneiceps*. Time alone can prove this.

The true *R. dichrous* also occurs in South-eastern New Guinea, quite a series having been obtained by Mr. Forbes in the Sogeri district of the Astrolabe range. Dr. Meyer has a pair from Amberbaki, where the female is exactly similar to the male, and we have in the British Museum a nestling which is almost exactly like the adults, having a black head and throat. The female has the wing 4·3 inches, the male 4·2, and in Forbes's six specimens the wing varies from 4·1 to 4·3 inches. The entire absence of black on the rump and upper tail-coverts distinguishes *R. dichrous*.

I quite agree that *Rectes tibialis* of my Catalogue is not separable from *R. uropygialis*, as Count Salvadori has already determined.

*Rectes decipiens* of Salvadori seems to be a large form of *R. dichrous*, with the wing 5 inches; but I do not see how the distinction between this species and *R. cirrhocephalus* and *R. rubiensis* can be maintained, for they seem to run one into the other. Thus a male collected at Dorey by Mr. Wallace is exactly similar in the colour of the head to a female from Rubi, and a male from Rubi is absolutely the same as a male from Inviorage.

In the same way *Rectes analogus* of Meyer, from the Aru Islands, is only the young of *R. aruensis*. We have several similar ones in the Museum, from the Aru Islands.